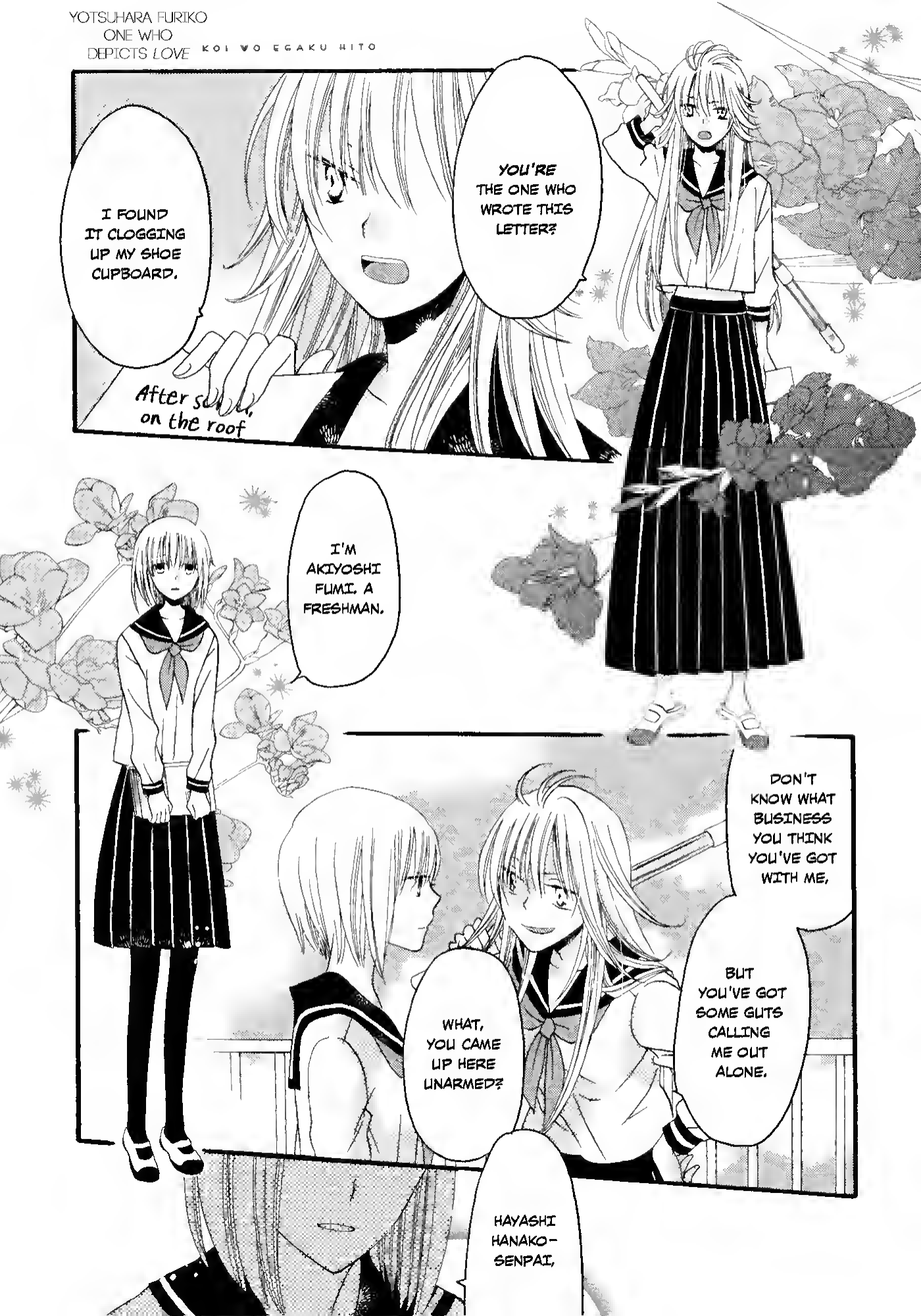
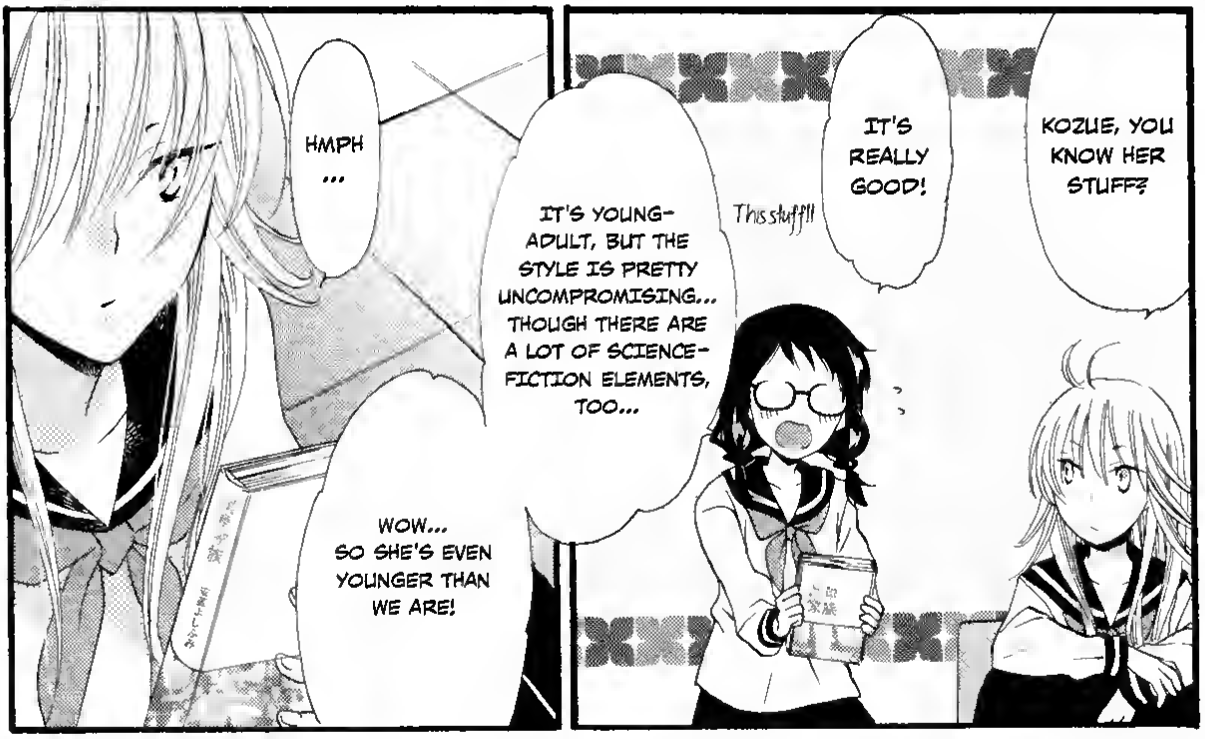

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WROTE THIS LETTER?
I FOUND IT CLOGGING UP MY SHOE CUPBOARD.
After school, on the roof
I'M AKIYOSHI FUMI. A FRESHMAN.
DON'T KNOW WHAT BUSINESS YOU THINK YOU'VE GOT WITH ME,
BUT YOU'VE GOT SOME GUTS CALLING ME OUT ALONE.
WHAT, YOU CAME UP HERE UNARMED?
HAYASHI HANAKO-SENPAI,

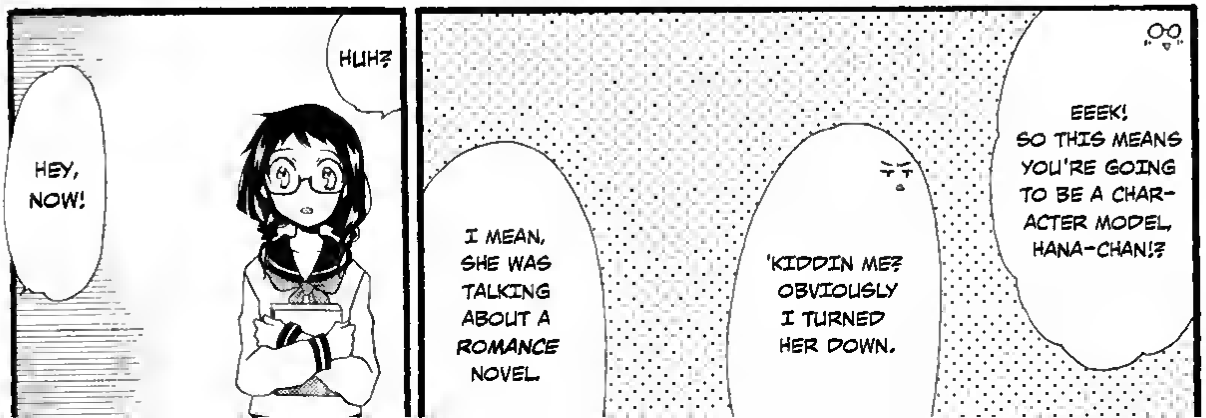
...HUH?

恋を描く人

KOI WO EGAKU HITO

WHAT? AKI YOSHIFUMI? THE NOVELIST?
NO WAY! I'D HEARD IT WAS A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT, BUT...
IT WAS A STUDENT *HERE*?

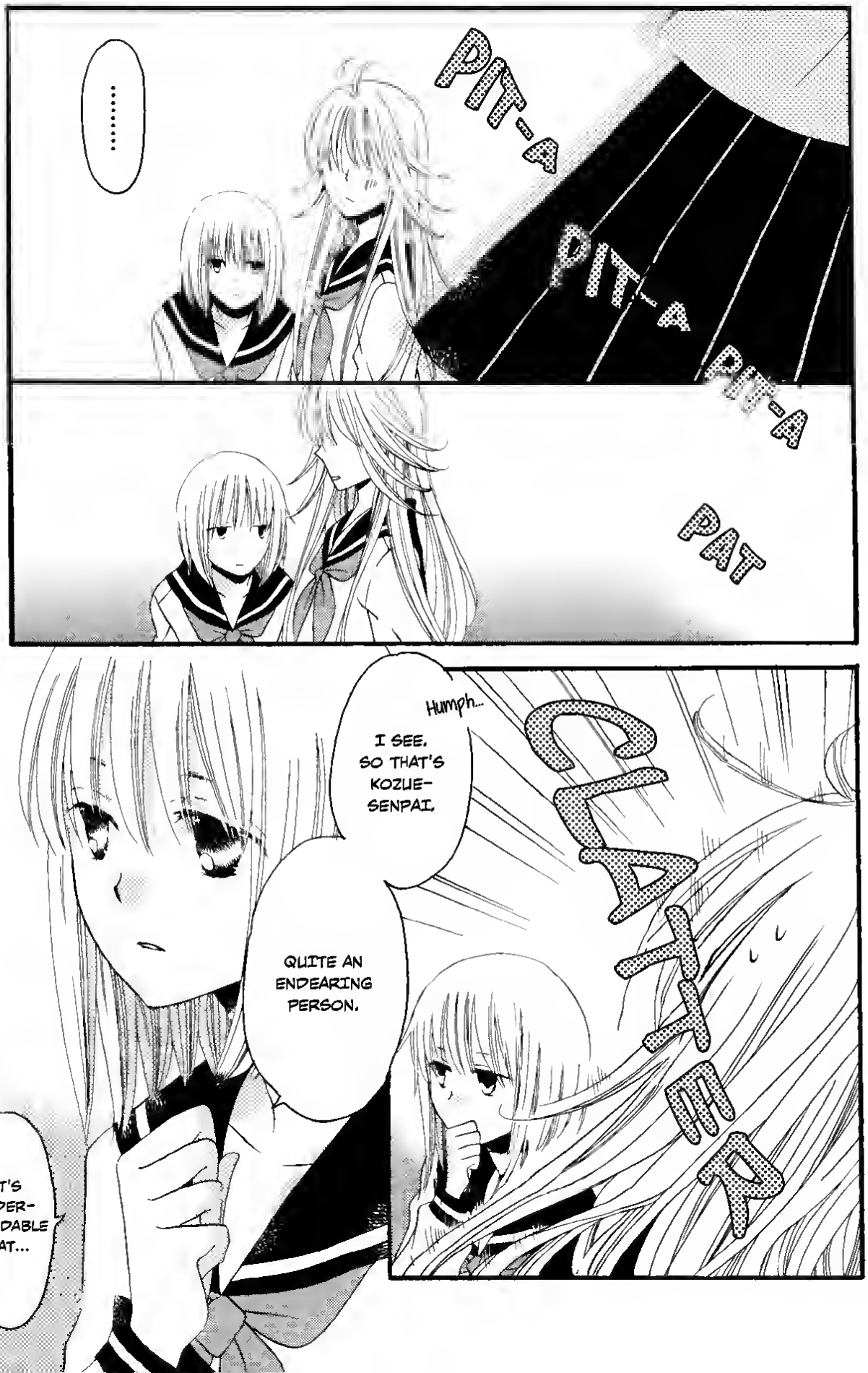

KOZUE, YOU KNOW HER STUFF?
IT'S REALLY GOOD!
This stuff!!
IT'S YOUNG-ADULT, BUT THE STYLE IS PRETTY UNCOMPROMISING... THOUGH THERE ARE A LOT OF SCIENCE-FICTION ELEMENTS, TOO...
HMPH ...
WOW... SO SHE'S EVEN YOUNGER THAN WE ARE!


EEEK! SO THIS MEANS YOU'RE GOING TO BE A CHARACTER MODEL, HANA-CHAN!?
'KIDDIN ME? OBVIOUSLY I TURNED HER DOWN.
I MEAN, SHE WAS TALKING ABOUT A *ROMANCE* NOVEL.
HUH?
HEY, NOW!

TANI-SENPAI!
DON'T MAKE A RACKET IN THE LIBRARY!
STAY ON YOUR TOES, STUDENT LIBRARIAN.
AUGHH... I'M SORRY!
AND... I APOLOGIZE FOR SLACKING OFF ON THE JOB!!!!!
AH HA HA, WELL, THAT PART WAS FINE.

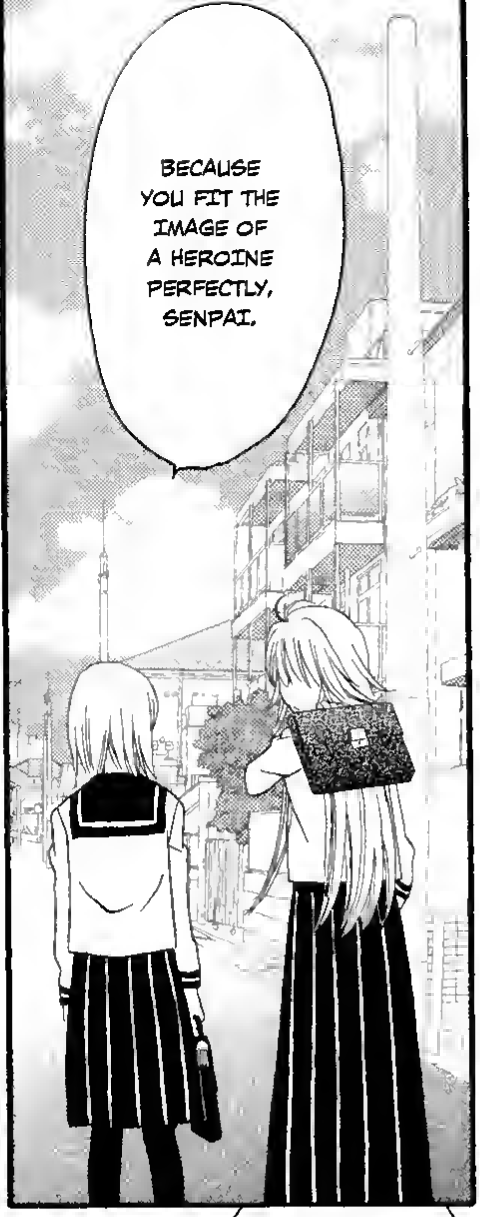
.....

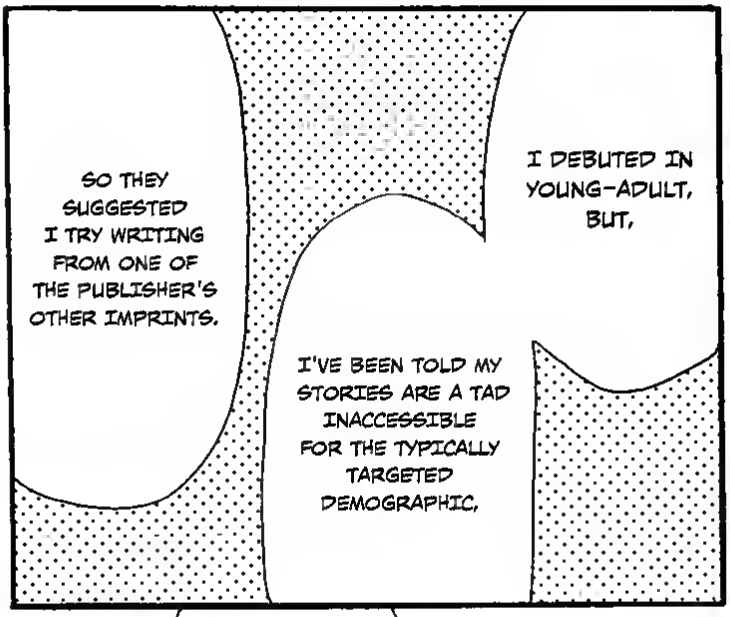
PIT-A
PIT-A
PATTER
OKAY THEN, I'LL SEE YOU LATER, HANA-CHAN.
THANKS FOR ALWAYS STAYING AROUND LATE LIKE THIS.
OH, AND...
YEAH, PEACE OUT.
WHISPER
I THINK THAT YOU AS THE HEROINE OF A ROMANCE NOVEL
WOULD BE REALLY WONDERFUL, HANA-CHAN!

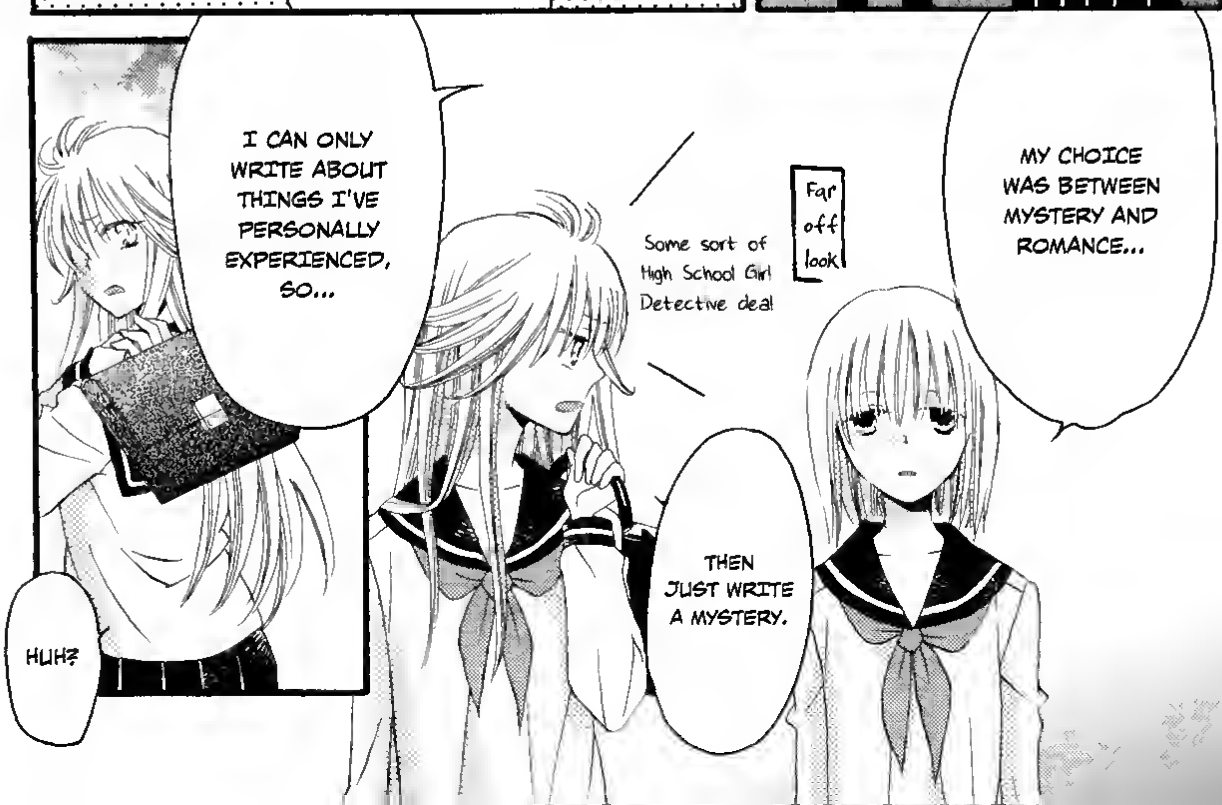

.....
PIT-A
PIT-A
PIT-A
PAT
Humph...
I SEE. SO THAT'S KOZUE-SENPAI.
QUITE AN ENDEARING PERSON.
IT'S UNDER-STANDABLE THAT...
CLATTER

YOU WOULD FALL IN LOVE WITH HER, HAYASHI-SENPAI.
GOOD AFTERNOON ONCE AGAIN.
SHALL WE WALK HOME TOGETHER TODAY?
WHAT...
MADE YOU WANT TO WRITE ABOUT ME?

BUT WHY IN THE HELL A ROMANCE?
I'VE HEARD YOU USUALLY WRIT SCIENCE-FICTION STUFF.


BECAUSE YOU FIT THE IMAGE OF A HEROINE PERFECTLY, SENPAI.

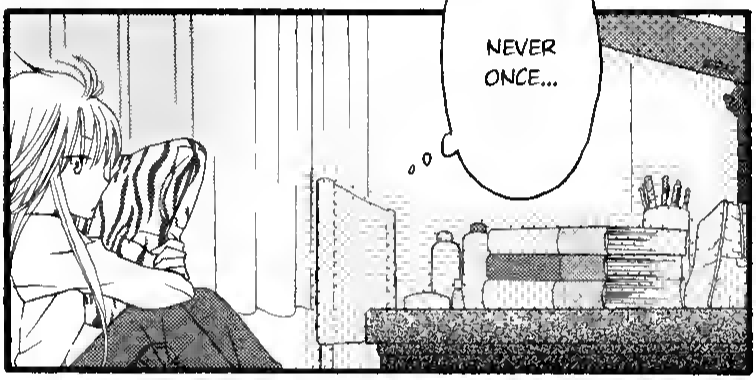

I DEBUTED IN YOUNG-ADULT, BUT,
I'VE BEEN TOLD MY STORIES ARE A TAD INACCESSIBLE FOR THE TYPICALLY TARGETED DEMOGRAPHIC,
SO THEY SUGGESTED I TRY WRITING FROM ONE OF THE PUBLISHER'S OTHER IMPRINTS.

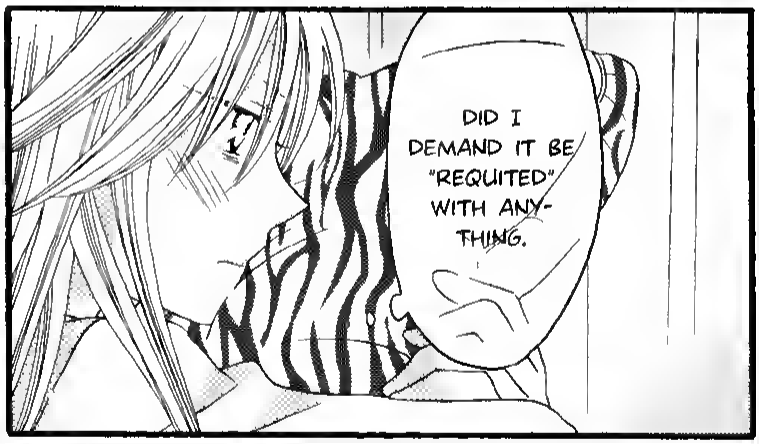

MY CHOICE WAS BETWEEN MYSTERY AND ROMANCE...
Far off look
Some sort of High School Girl Detective deal
THEN JUST WRITE A MYSTERY.
I CAN ONLY WRITE ABOUT THINGS I'VE PERSONALLY EXPERIENCED, SO...
HUH?

IF I'M TO WRITE A MYSTERY STORY, I'LL HAVE TO ASK TO SEE AN ACTUAL MURDER SCENE.
I REQUESTED THAT THEY GET PERMISSION FROM THE POLICE FOR ME TO CONDUCT ON-SITE RESEARCH, BUT THEY REFUSED.
WELL, NO DUH THEY DID.
ACCOR-DINGLY, IT'S A ROMANCE NOVEL.
BUT I MEAN, YOUR SCIENCE FICTION'S ALL JUST MADE-UP STUFF.
NO, IT'S ALL REAL.
WHAT?
IT ALL REALLY HAP-PENED TO ME, JUST THAT WAY.
THE STORIES ABOUT INTERACTING WITH ALIENS REFLECT THE SENSE OF CULTURAL DISPARITY I FELT WHEN I BECAME FRIENDS WITH AN OVERSEAS STUDENT FROM AUSTRALIA.
THE STORY ABOUT BUILDING AN ANDROID TO REPLACE A DECEASED DAUGHTER
IS REALLY ABOUT ME, MY PARENTS, AND MY DEAD OLDER BROTHER.
.....

NO HESITATION.
AND SO NOW THIS TIME,
YOU WANT TO WRITE A STORY ABOUT A GIRL WHO'S DUMB ENOUGH TO FALL IN LOVE WITH ANOTHER GIRL
THAT'S RIGHT.
I WANT TO WRITE
A STORY OF UNREQUITED LOVE.
FSSH HHH
THE FIRST TIME
I EVER EXCHANGED WORDS WITH KOZUE WAS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

HAYASHI-SAN'S KIND OF SCARY.
THEY SAY SHE SHOPLIFTS AND STUFF.
AND SHE HURT HERSELF FIGHTING KIDS FROM THE SCHOOL CROSS-TOWN.
AND SHE HANGS OUT IN FRONT OF THE STATION AT NIGHT BY HERSELF.
HANA-CHAN!
YOU'D BETTER STAY AWAY FROM HER TOO, KOZUE-CHAN!
...WHAT?
WANT TO WORK ON THE SOCIAL STUDIES REPORT TOGETHER?
whisper...
YOU SURE HAVE A CUTE NAME, HANAKO-CHAN!
IT MAKES ME A LITTLE JEALOUS!
MAY I CALL YOU HANA-CHAN?
WITH JUST THAT ONE...

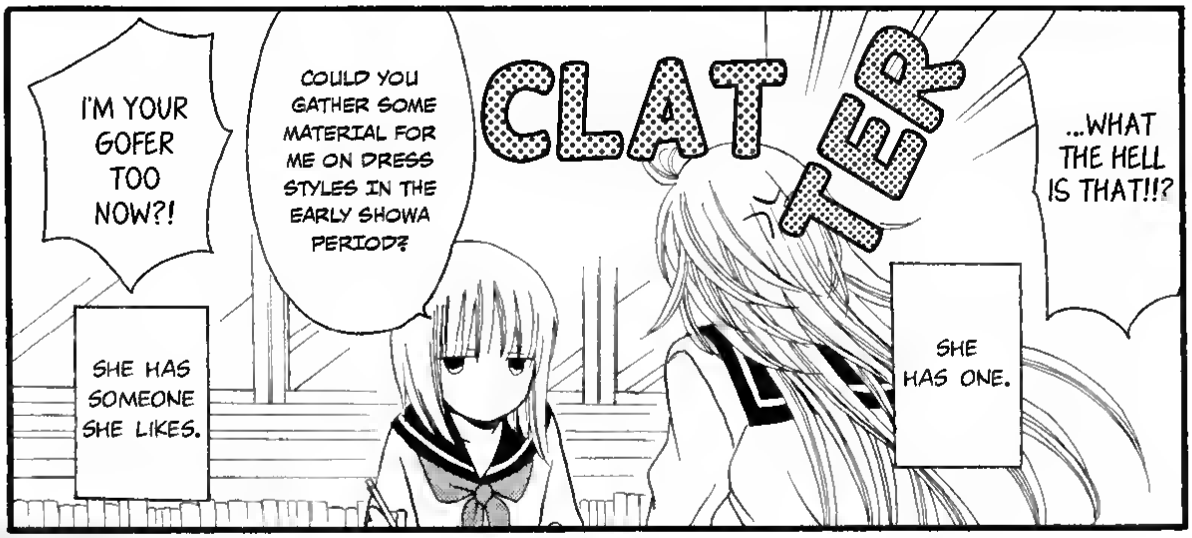




INNOCENT LITTLE COMMENT...

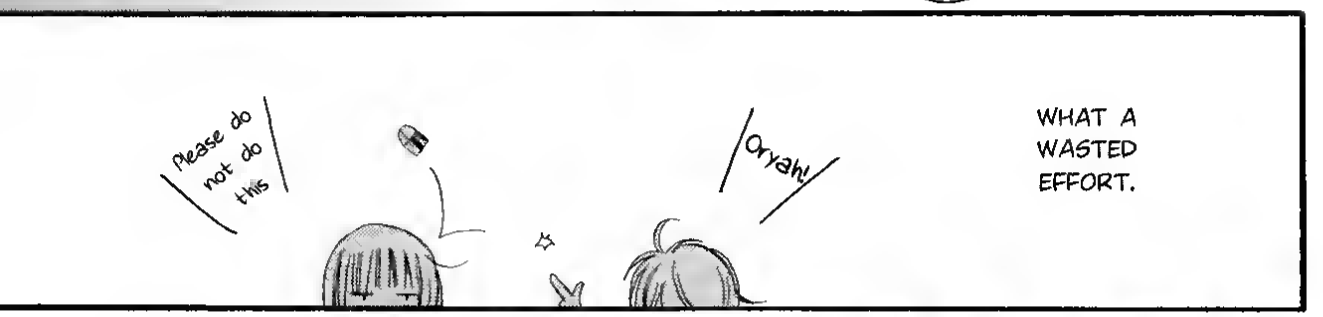
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS!?
CARE TO READ IT?
AND ANYWAY, WOULDN'T YOU NORMALLY USE A COMPUTER TO WRITE SOMETHING LIKE THIS?
IF THERE'S NOT A PHYSICAL PIECE OF PAPER, I CAN'T WRITE.
I HAD TO GIVE UP ON OBTAINING PERMISSION FROM YOU.
DEAD-LINES DON'T WAIT.
I told you NO!!
UNBELIEVA-BLE! YOU'RE SERIOUSLY GOING AHEAD WITH THIS!? GET BENT!
THEN DON'T ASK IN THE FIRST PLACE!
IT'S JUST REGULAR KANJI AND KANA, WHY?
WHAT IS THIS? THIS WHAT THEY CALL "SHORT-HAND"?
.....
"LIGHT... WAS REFLECTED FOR A... FLEETING INSTANT"...
"ON THE... PALE-TINT-ED EYE'S... SURFACE"...
...THAT'S ABOUT ALL I CAN READ.
I'M NOT SURE I QUITE GRASP WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO...
IT'S LIKE A MILD FORM OF TORTURE.
I REALLY HAVE TO READ THROUGH ALL THESE HUNDREDS OF PAGES?
EDITING MUST BE HELL...

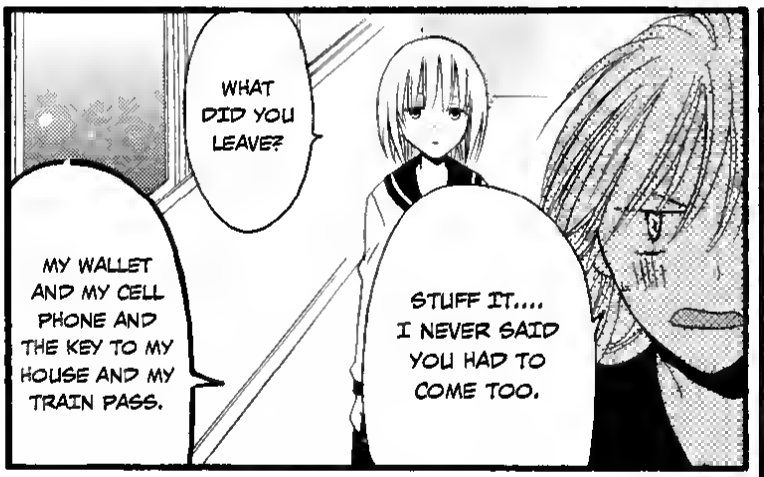
"MY... COMPO- SURE... DEEPLY SHAKEN, I—
SWISH
THAT'S EMBARRASS- ING, SO YOU HAVE TO STOP NOW.
SO EVEN SHE GETS BASHFUL ABOUT CERTAIN THINGS...
...HEY. WHAT ABOUT YOU?
SCOOT
DO YOU HAVE A PERSON YOU LIKE, OR WHATEVER?
PRETTY BAD TASTE, WOULDN'T YOU SAY, USING PEOPLE AS STORY MATERIAL?
JUST WRITE IT FROM YOUR OWN EXPERIENCE.


I'M YOUR GOFER TOO NOW?!
COULD YOU GATHER SOME MATERIAL FOR ME ON DRESS STYLES IN THE EARLY SHOWA PERIOD?
CLATTER
...WHAT THE HELL IS THAT!!?
SHE HAS SOMEONE SHE LIKES.
SHE HAS ONE.

EVEN WITH THAT RESIGNED, DISDAINFUL LOOK SHE TURNS TOWARD EVERYTHING.

MAYBE SHE PICKED ME
BECAUSE SHE THINKS WE'RE IN THE SAME BOAT?

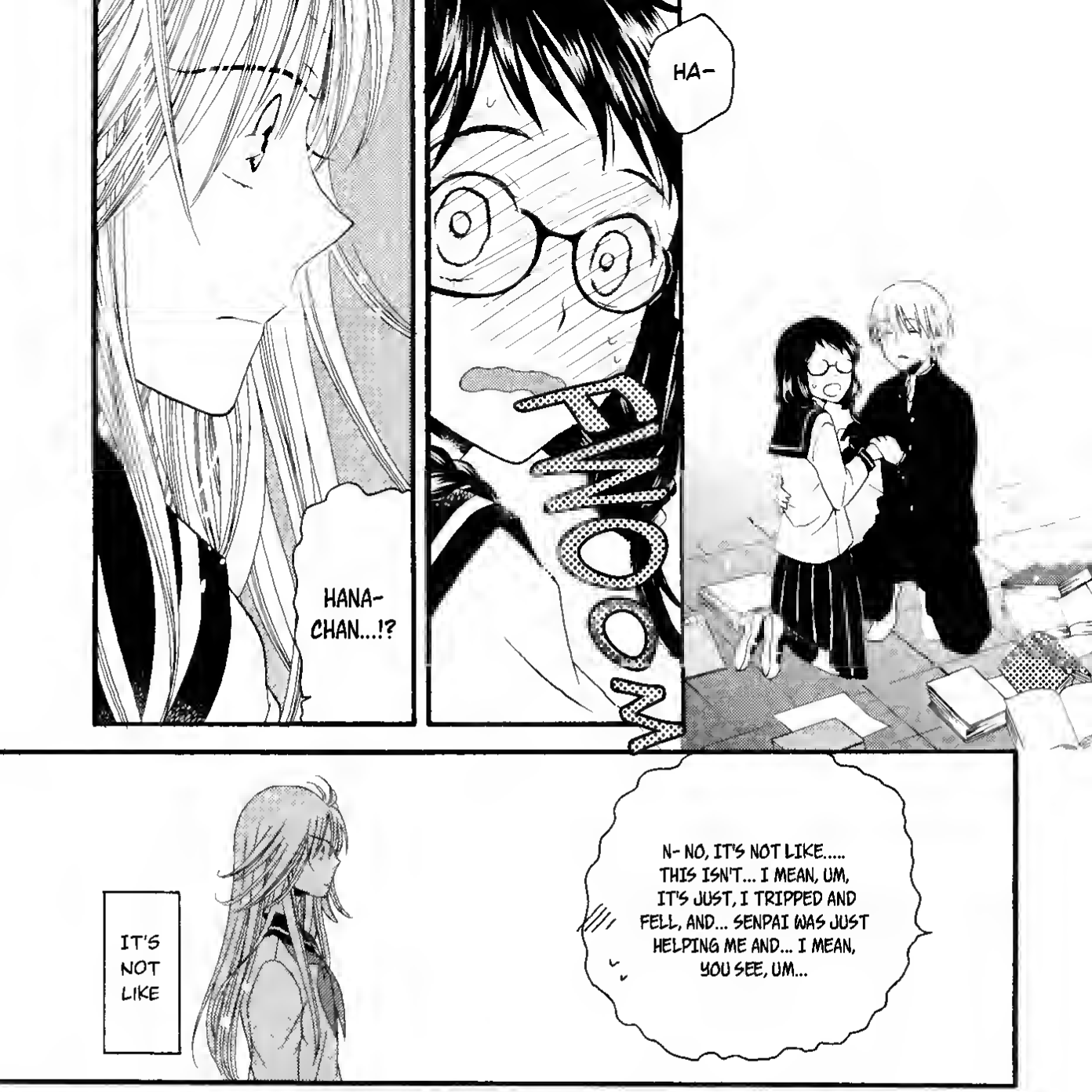

Please do not do this
Oryah!
WHAT A WASTED EFFORT.


WHAT DID YOU LEAVE?
MY WALLET AND MY CELL PHONE AND THE KEY TO MY HOUSE AND MY TRAIN PASS.
STUFF IT.... I NEVER SAID YOU HAD TO COME TOO.

WHAT IS IT YOU LEFT BEHIND?
WOULDN'T IT DO TO COME GET IT TOMORROW?

...HOW IS IT POSSIBLE THAT YOU MANAGED TO FORGET THE ENTIRE CONTENTS OF YOUR BAG?
I SAID STUFF IT! JUST GO HOME ALREADY!

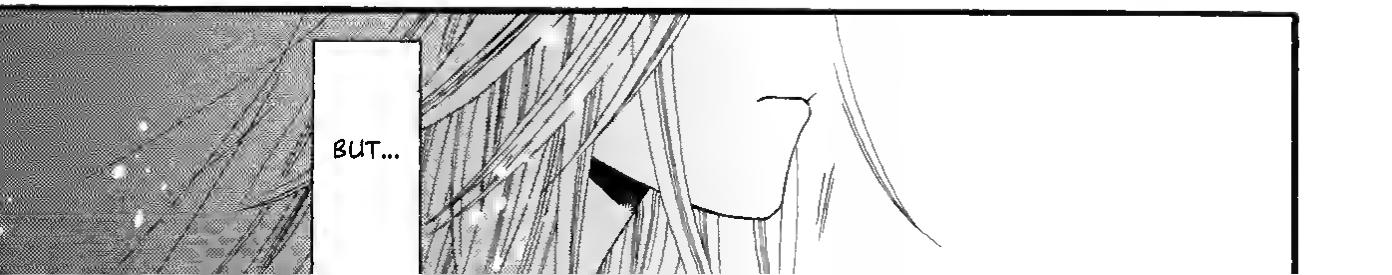
AND, IN ANY CASE, I'M SURE KOZUE-SENPAI HAS ALREADY LEF—
LIBRAR
WALKING THROUGH THE DARK SCHOOL HALLWAYS ALONE IS FRIGHTENING, IS IT NOT?
I'M STAYING HERE TO KEEP YOU COMPANY.
WHO YOU CALLING SCARED OF THE DARK!? HUH!!?
HUNH?
.....
WHAT? WHAT IS IT?
LET'S GO HOME.
HURRY.
WHA?
IF YOU NEED FARE MONEY, I CAN LEND YOU SOME.
YO! HOLD—
TUG
WHAT IS IT?! LEGGO!
LOOK, THE LIGHT'S ON IN HERE.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING GRABBING ME ALL OF A...
SLIDE
EEK!...


HANA-CHAN...!?
HA-
BOOM
N- NO, IT'S NOT LIKE..... THIS ISN'T... I MEAN, UM, IT'S JUST, I TRIPPED AND FELL, AND... SENPAI WAS JUST HELPING ME AND... I MEAN, YOU SEE, UM...
IT'S NOT LIKE

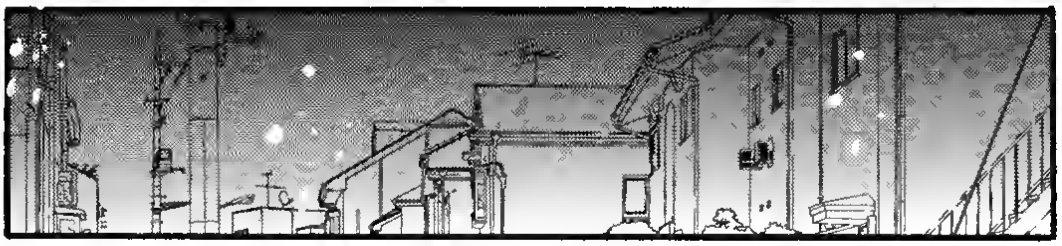
OR HAD THOSE KINDS OF SENTIMENTAL, SICKLY-SWEET DREAMS.

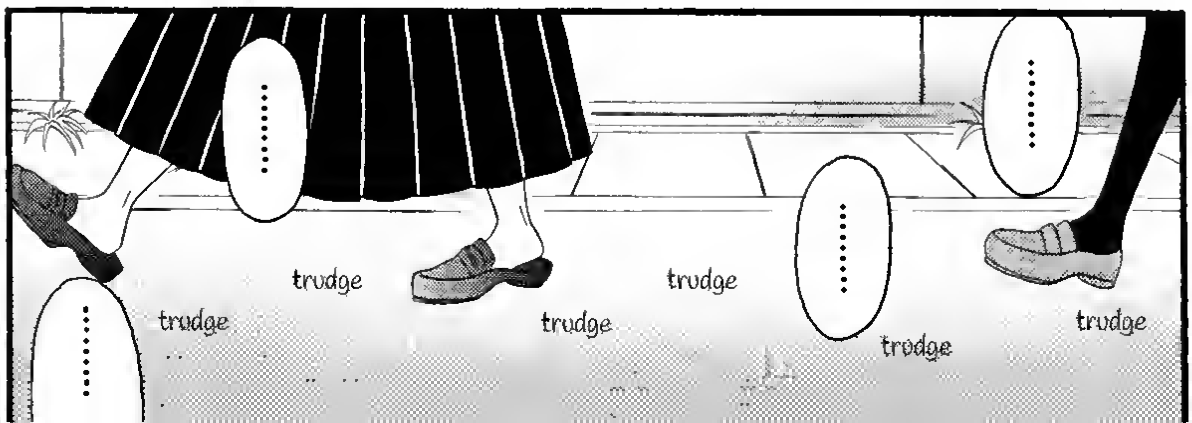
OR "SOMEDAY, SURELY, SHE'LL..."

I REALLY THOUGHT SOMETHING LIKE, "MY PATIENCE WILL BE REWARDED EVENTUALLY,"

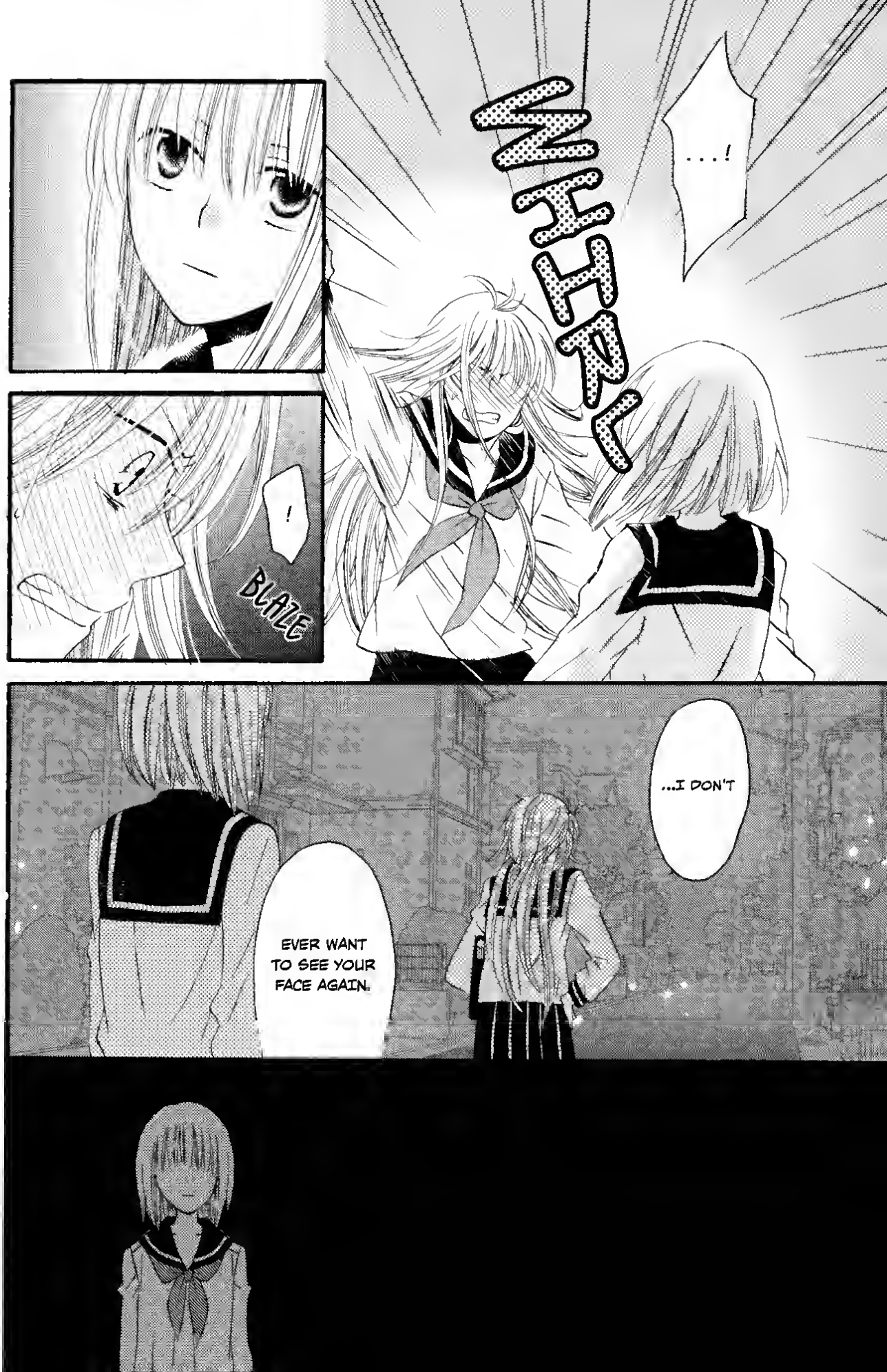


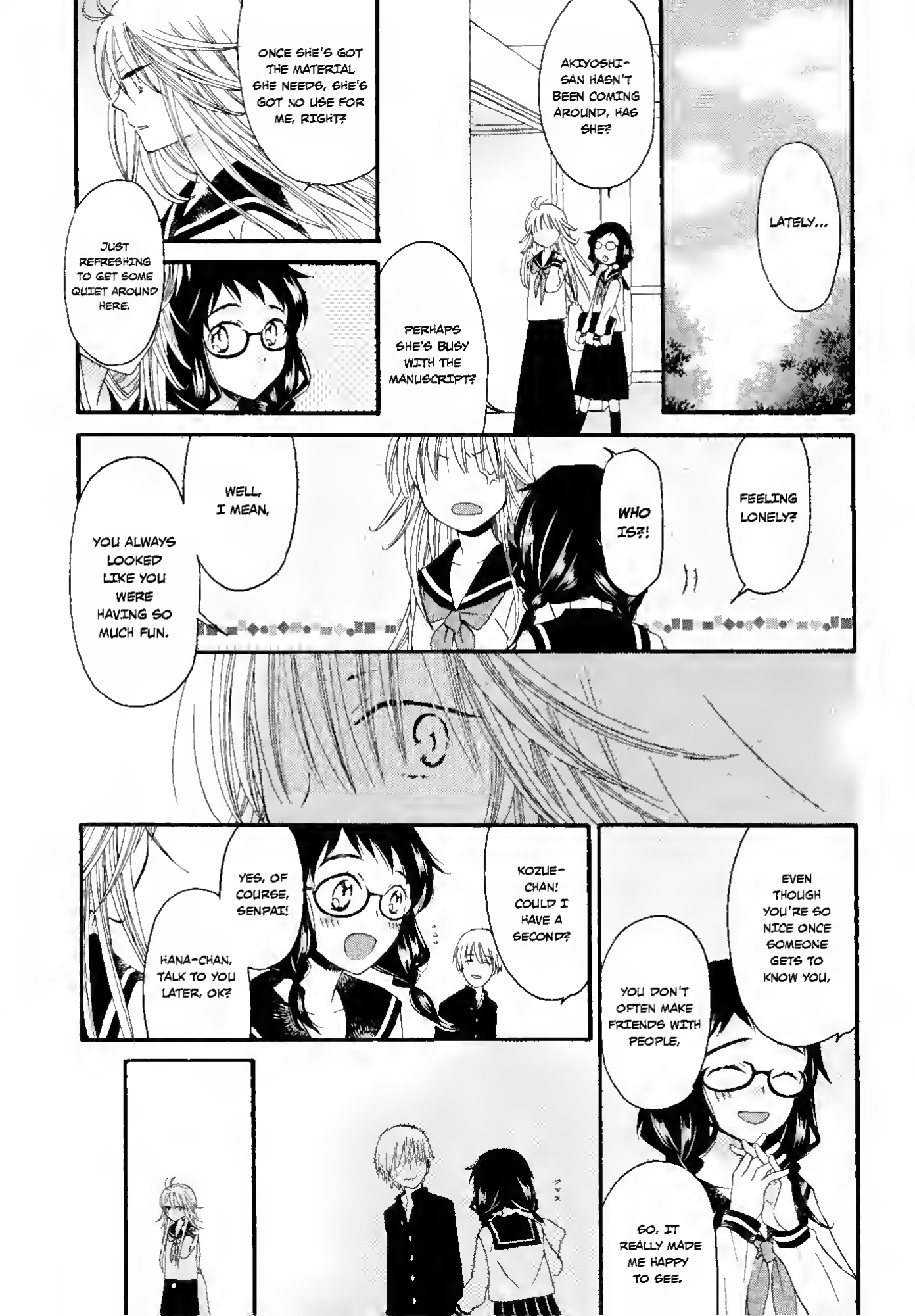
I STILL DIDN'T WANT THAT MOMENT OF MISERY EXPOSED FOR OTHER PEOPLE TO SEE.





...YOUR HOUSE IS THE OTHER WAY, RIGHT?
YES.
SO WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOLLOWING ME?
HURRY UP AND GO HOME.
YES.
.....
SSSHHHHHH
trudge
trudge
trudge
trudge
IS THIS THE WAY...
YOU DO OBSERVATIONS ON PEOPLE?
ARE YOU STILL...
PLANNING ON TURNING ME INTO A STORY?
YES.


...!
WHERE
!
BLAIZE
...I DON'T
EVER WANT TO SEE YOUR FACE AGAIN.


AKIYOSHI-SAN HASN'T BEEN COMING AROUND, HAS SHE?
LATELY...
PERHAPS SHE'S BUSY WITH THE MANUSCRIPT?
ONCE SHE'S GOT THE MATERIAL SHE NEEDS, SHE'S GOT NO USE FOR ME, RIGHT?
JUST REFRESHING TO GET SOME QUIET AROUND HERE.
FEELING LONELY?
WHO IS?!
WELL, I MEAN,
YOU ALWAYS LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE HAVING SO MUCH FUN.
KOZUE-CHAN! COULD I HAVE A SECOND?
YES, OF COURSE, SENPAI!
HANA-CHAN, TALK TO YOU LATER, OK?
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE SO NICE ONCE SOMEONE GETS TO KNOW YOU,
YOU DON'T OFTEN MAKE FRIENDS WITH PEOPLE,
SO, IT REALLY MADE ME HAPPY TO SEE.

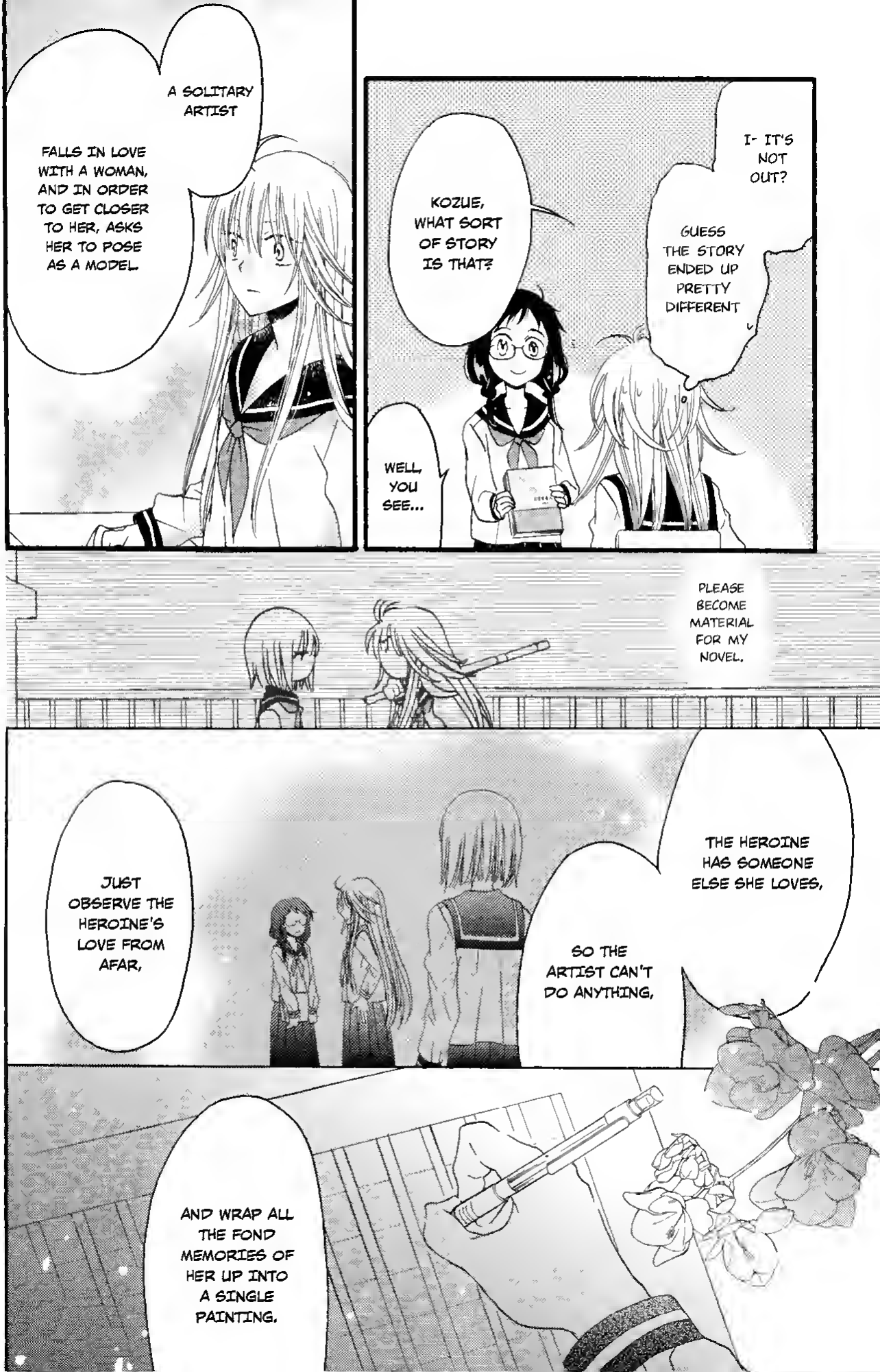
ALL THAT'S HAPPENED IS THINGS RETURNING TO "THE WAY THEY WERE."

...NA-CHAN!

HANA-CHAN!

NRGH...JUST TWO MORE HOURS...
IT'S AKIYOSHI-SAN'S NEW BOOK!
IT CAME OUT YESTERDAY.
THIS IS IT, RIGHT? THE STORY THAT USED YOU AS A MODEL!?

TH-
ONE
DEPIC
?
KOZUE,
PLEASE, DO NOT READ THAT BOOK!!!!
THAT'S ALL OVER AND DONE WITH, ALL RIGHT!?
I'VE SORTED OUT MY FEELINGS NOW!
!
I ALREADY FINISHED IT YESTERDAY.
EH...
SORRY, IS IT EMBARRASSING FOR YOU?
IT'S OUT...
SAG
MY SECRET IS OUT.
THE HEROINE MODELED AFTER YOU IS VERY CUTE.
I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY THE PROTAGONIST FALLS IN LOVE WITH HER!
BUT, IT SURE IS A REALLY NICE STORY!
HUH?


A SOLITARY ARTIST
FALLS IN LOVE WITH A WOMAN, AND IN ORDER TO GET CLOSER TO HER, ASKS HER TO POSE AS A MODEL.
KOZUE, WHAT SORT OF STORY IS THAT?
I- IT'S NOT OUT?
GUESS THE STORY ENDED UP PRETTY DIFFERENT
WELL, YOU SEE...
PLEASE BECOME MATERIAL FOR MY NOVEL.
THE HEROINE HAS SOMEONE ELSE SHE LOVES,
SO THE ARTIST CAN'T DO ANYTHING,
JUST OBSERVE THE HEROINE'S LOVE FROM AFAR,
AND WRAP ALL THE FOND MEMORIES OF HER UP INTO A SINGLE PAINTING.

SENPAI,
I WANT...
IT'S THE STORY OF AN ARTIST, GOING THROUGH LIFE ALONE.
TO WRITE A STORY OF UNREQUITED LOVE.
...SHE'S REALLY A MORON.
EH?
A BIG, HUGE MORON.
DIIING
DOOONG
DAAANG DOOON

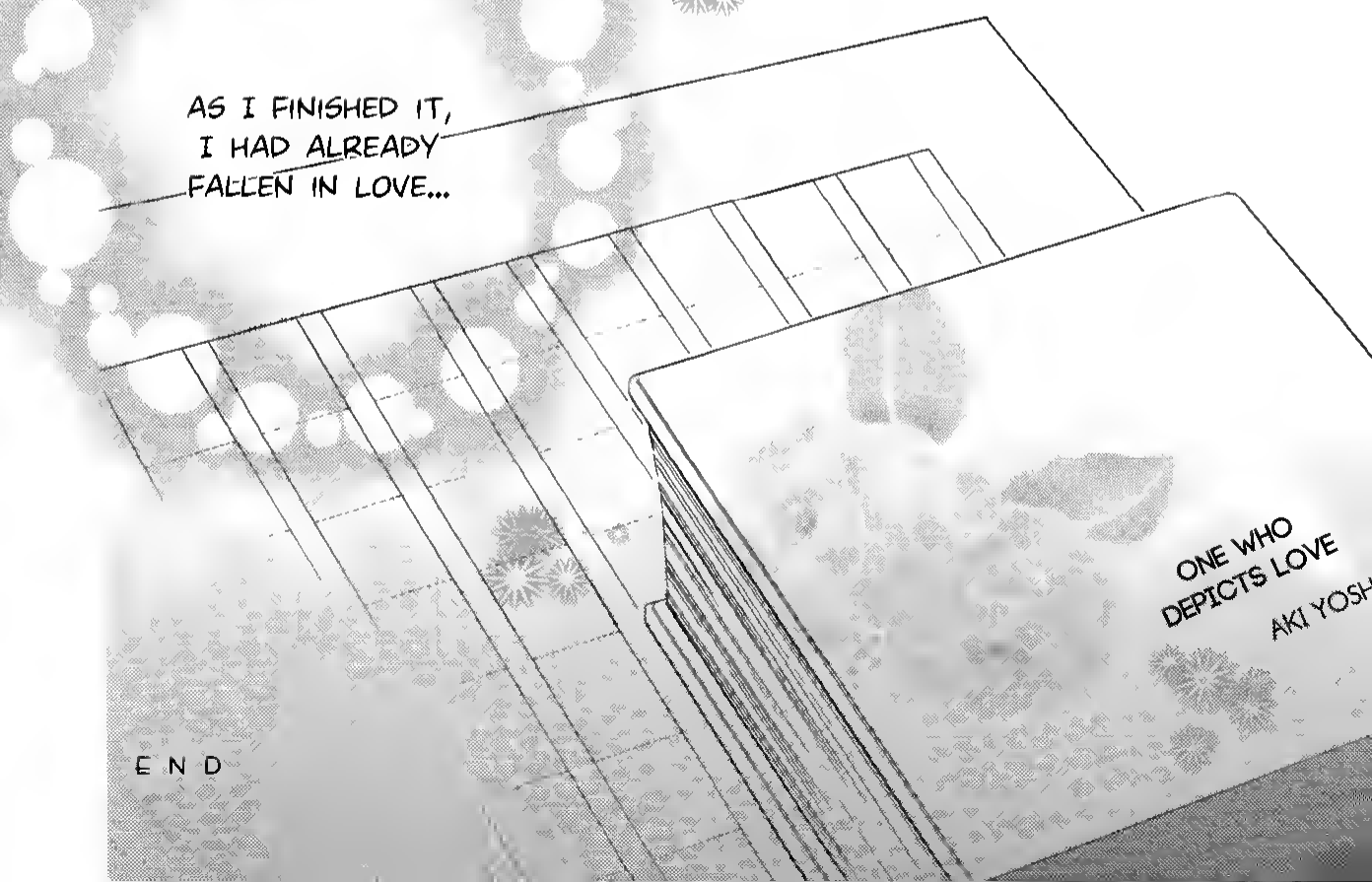
YO.
.....
I READ YOUR BOOK.
I SEE.
I REALLY DIDN'T THINK...
YOU WOULD COME TO SEE ME.
DID I?
YOU TOLD ME YOU NEVER WANTED TO SEE MY FACE AGAIN.
WHAT'S WITH YOU IGNORING ME LIKE THAT?
.....

...IF YOU'RE GOING TO GET ALL SHEEPISH ABOUT IT, JUST DON'T WRITE IT IN THE FIRST PLACE.
A WRITER'S JOB...
HAS TO BE TO SELL HER OWN SELF OFF, PIECE BY PIECE.
WHAT A ROTTEN LINE OF WORK.
AHHHH, SHOOT..
I CAN'T KEEP MYSELF FROM SMILING.

352 PAGES
IN TOTAL,

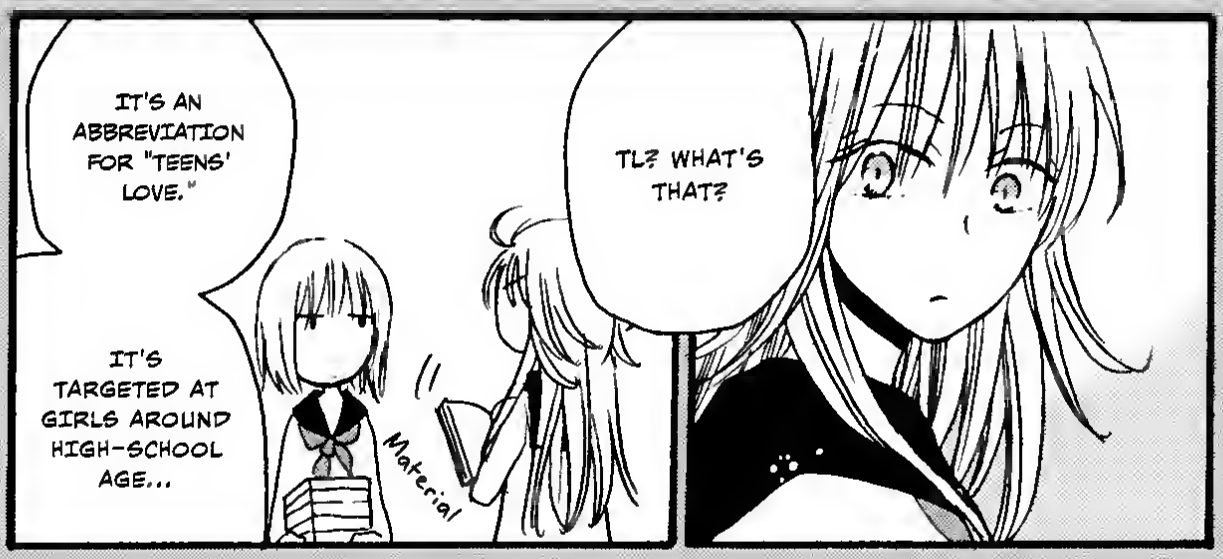
THIS LONG
SERIES OF
EMBARRASSING
WORDS.

AS I FINISHED IT,
I HAD ALREADY
FALLEN IN LOVE...



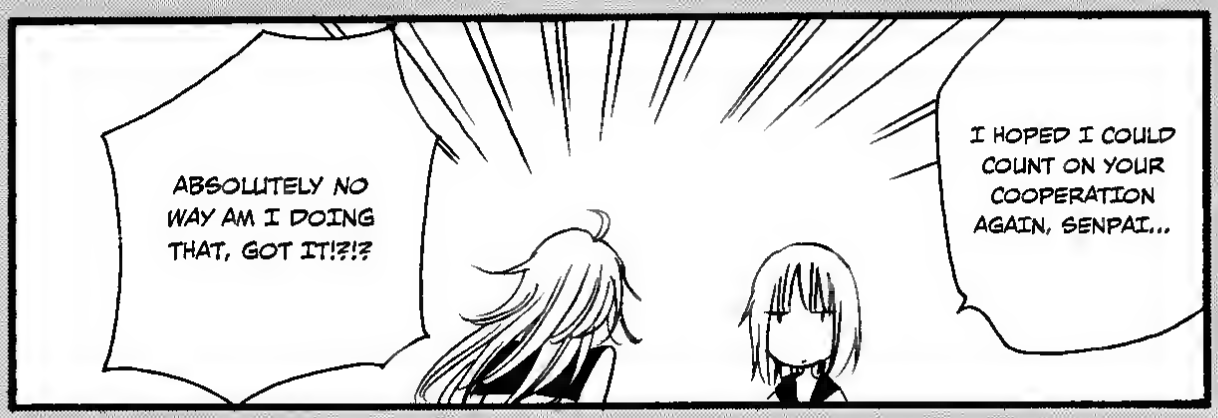
END

I'VE DECIDED TO TRY WRITING A TL STORY.


TL? WHAT'S THAT?
IT'S AN ABBREVIATION FOR "TEENS' LOVE."
IT'S TARGETED AT GIRLS AROUND HIGH-SCHOOL AGE...
Material

AND...
SO, WHY...
TYPICALLY, SHOUJO GENRE NOVELS FEATURING RATHER RACY DEVELOPMENTS.
FLIP

I CAN ONLY WRITE ABOUT THINGS I'VE PERSONALLY EXPERIENCED.
I BELIEVE I TOLD YOU THIS BEFORE, BUT,
ARE YOU BRINGING THIS UP TO ME!?


ABSOLUTELY NO WAY AM I DOING THAT, GOT IT!?!?
I HOPED I COULD COUNT ON YOUR COOPERATION AGAIN, SENPAI...

NO WAY AM I DOING IT (EXPLETIVES REDACTED)!!
THROUGH THE USE OF A VARIETY OF MEDICATIONS AND TOOLS, IN THE END—
THE SORT OF SITUATION I WAS THINKING OF WAS...
THERE'S A FIGHT, AND THINGS GET A LITTLE FORCIBLE, BUT...

YOTSUHARA FURIKO

ONE WHO DEPICTS *LOVE*

RAWS: WEATHEREDPEACH
EDITOR:KARI
QC: PROCYON, HONG & PHYIS